

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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OCTOBER 24, 1962

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FROM: BONN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1210, OCTOBER 24.

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JOINT EMBASSY - USIS MESSAGE

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OFFICIAL BONN SUPPORT FOR U.S. ACTION FEATURED IN MANY PAPERS TODAY. OTHERS, CATCHING UP, CARRY-FULL TEXT OR LONG EXCERPTS PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 22 MESSAGE. MOST HEADLINES STRESS BOTH EAST AND WEST ON ALERT, RIGHT-CENTER DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG GOING FARTHEST: "EAST AND WEST READY TO FIGHT FOR CUBA." MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S ACTION, THOUGH MANY COMMENTATORS PREOCCUPIED WITH TRYING TO GUESS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. EXCERPTS:

LEFT-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU: "WE PRESUME NEITHER U.S. NOR SOVIET UNION WILL BE SO MAD AS TO SEEK ANOTHER WORLD WAR..... IF KENNEDY HAD TOLERATED SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN CUBA HE WOULD HAVE LOST FACE... THUS SITUATION OF KENNEDY REGARDING CUBA IS SIMILAR TO ONE OF KHRUSHCHEV REGARDING BERLIN... WE HOPE BOTH MEN WILL REALIZE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES."

PRO-CSU MUENCHNER MERKUR: "...BEST OF ALL POSSIBILITIES BETWEEN SURRENDER AND ATTACK."

INDEPENDENT WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE: "FORM ... CHOSEN BY KENNEDY LEAVES MUCH ROOM FOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO IMPLIES DANGERS... FACT SOVIET UNION HAS APPLIED TO UN INDICATES IT DOES NOT WANT LET THINGS COME TO HEAD."

LEFT-CENTER SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: "SOVIET DECLARATION IS STILL ELASTIC ENOUGH TO MAKE US HOPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS."

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-2- 1210, OCTOBER 24, FROM BONN

PRO-SPD NEUE RHEIN ZEITUNG: "IT IS DUTY OF WESTERN ALLIES TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT BECAUSE TOUGHNESS DISPLAYED BY HIM IN CARIBBEAN ILLUSTRATES U.S. TOUGHNESS ELSEWHERE, FOR INSTANCE IN BERLIN."

PRO-SPD WESTFAELISCHE RUNDSCHAU: "PERHAPS SOVIET UNION WILL REACT IN BERLIN TO BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON CUBA. HOWEVER, KHRUSHCHEV REALIZES THAT DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN PEACE AND WAR HAS BECOME DANGEROUSLY NARROW... HOPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS... PERSISTS."

MASS TABLOID BILD ZEITUNG: "WE WELCOME FACT KENNEDY HAS DEMONSTRATED TO KHRUSHCHEV THAT U.S. MAKES NO FRIVOLOUS USE OF ITS POWER, BUT THAT IT MAKES USE OF ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL WHENEVER FREEDOM IS IMPERILLED."

RIGHT-CENTER DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: "RISK RUN BY U.S. IS GRAVE, BUT IT HAS NO OTHER CHOICE."

INDEPENDENT DIE WELT: "THESE WHO CALL FOR AMERICAN STEADFASTNESS IN BERLIN SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTANDING FOR AMERICAN STEADFASTNESS IN CUBA."

INDEPENDENT GENERAL ANZEIGER: "NO IRREVOCABLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SO FAR."

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND CUBAN SITUATION HAVE DOMINATED RADIO-TV NEWS PROGRAMS. COMPLETE VIDEOTAPE OF SPEECH PICKED UP VIA TELSTAR AND BROADCAST ON NATIONAL NETWORK; 16 MINUTES OF 20-MINUTE NATIONAL TV NEWSCAST WATCHED BY ESTIMATED 15,000,000 VIEWERS DEVOTED TO SITUATION, INCLUDING REPORTS FOR WESTERN REACTIONS, ALL POSITIVE. REGIONAL PROGRAM "HIER UND HEUTE" TOOK SEVEN MINUTES TODAY TO SUMMARIZE ROUND-THE-WORLD REACTIONS, SPECIFYING BONN AND BERLIN APPROVE. FORTY MINUTE SPECIAL NATIONAL TV REPORT ON CUBA CRISIS BASED PRIMARLY ON PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR TONIGHT.

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